

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OTPE-00 IO-14 L-03 OIC-02

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 01932

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO, UR, US

SUBJECT: INMARSAT - TECHNICAL PANEL MEETING, LENINGRAD

JULY 3-7

1. SUMMARY: TECHNICAL PANEL COVERED ALL MATTERS ON ITS AGENDA, AND OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE US TOOK NO ACTION TO UNDERMINE EARLIER DECISION THAT EXISTING MARISAT SYSTEM WOULD BE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS BASIS FOR AN INITIAL INMARSAT SYSTEM. PANEL COMPLETED TEXT OF REPORT TO INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. EIGHTEEN PREPCOM MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS FROM SEVEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED ABOVE-REFERENCED MEETING. MEETING CONSIDERED VARIOUS TECHNICAL MATTERS ASSIGNED IT BY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. THE MORE IMPORTANT ACTIONS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED.

3. PANEL ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARISAT SYSTEM SUBMITTED BY US. IT WAS AGREED THESE CHARACTERISTICS WOULD FORM BASIS OF INITIAL INMARSAT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. MATERIAL INTRODUCED BY US DESCRIBING THE METHOD BY WHICH MULTIPLE SHORE STATION
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INTERWORKING IS ACCOMPLISHED WAS ALSO ACCEPTED.

4. MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE BEFORE PANEL WAS THAT OF DETERMINING THE ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED, I.E., CENTRALIZED OR DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM. IT WAS THE GENERAL VIEW THAT DISTRIBUTED CONTROL IS THE PREFERABLE METHOD, ALTHOUGH TWO OR THREE DELEGATIONS FAVORED CENTRA-

LIZED CONTROL. HOWEVER, THE PANEL CONCLUDED THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR A DECISION AT THIS TIME.

5. THERE WAS LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY CAPTAIN FEAR OF US DEL ABOUT CHOICE OF FREQUENCY FOR EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACONS (EPIRB). FINAL REPORT WILL STATE THAT "ALTHOUGH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE BEYOND THE RANGE OF GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITES AND THE ADVANTAGES OF OTHER FREQUENCIES WERE RECOGNIZED, THE PANEL CONCLUDED THAT A CAPABILITY FOR EPIRB SERVICE SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE INITIAL INMARSAT PHASE AT L-BAND (1.6 GHZ)." IT WILL FURTHER STATE THAT ONE DEL BELIEVED SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE SUCH AS TO WARRANT A CONCLUSION THAT PRECLUDED POSSIBILITY OF EPIRB SERVICE AT 406 MHZ IN THE FUTURE. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL POTENTIAL EPIRB SYSTEMS WERE FULLY EVALUATED, PANEL CONSIDERED FURTHER STUDY OF EPIRB SERVICE WOULD BE USEFUL, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO L-BAND SYSTEMS.

6. OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY PANEL INCLUDED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF LAND AND SHIP EARTH STATIONS, SERVICE CAPABILITIES, OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, AND THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A FUTURE INMARSAT SYSTEM (I.E., AFTER FIRST SYSTEM BASED ON MARISAT). ALL ISSUES WERE HANDLED IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO US DEL.
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7. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DETAILED INSPECTION IN DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY, EB/TD. BUCHANAN

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